

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BGR 630

Specialized Readings in the Greek New Testament and Hellenistic Greek

James D. Hernando

Fall, 2009

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to increase proficiency in translation and reading of the Greek language found in literature ranging from ca. 200 B.C. to ca. A.D. 400. This particular course will focus on readings in the Petrine epistles, select apocalyptic passages in the OT and the Apocrypha.

OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to demonstrate mastery of the course material, specifically, by being able to do the following:

Knowledge:

1. Demonstrate an expanded knowledge of the use and function of Greek syntax and grammar.
2. Demonstrate an increased knowledge of the vocabulary of the Greek New Testament and intertestamental Greek literature under review.
3. Identify and discussed the characteristic features of apocalyptic literature and any distinctions found in the canonical writings of the New Testament.
4. Discuss the exegetical insights derived from our work of translation and analysis of portions of the New Testament and non-canonical literature translated.

Skills:

1. Using only an appropriate lexicon, translate without the use of written aids assigned portions of the Greek New Testament, parsing all verbs, declining all nouns and adjectives, and identifying any grammatical constructions or idioms.
2. Using only a prepared word list, sight-read portions of the Greek New Testament.
3. Develop and refine a translation strategy for translating unfamiliar Greek texts from the New Testament and other Hellenistic literature under review.

Attitudes:

1. Appreciate the difference between translating words in Greek and grasping the structure and thought of the author through a grammatical and syntactical analysis of the text.
2. Develop an increased appreciation for the different writing styles among the authors of the canonical New Testament.

3. Come to an awareness of the connection between literary genre and purpose as it relates to characteristic vocabulary, themes and concepts.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Aland, Kurt; Black, Matthew; Martini, Carlo et al. *The Greek New Testament*. 4th ed. United Bible Societies, 1993.

Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Wikgren, Allen, E. C. Colwell and R. Marcus, *Hellenistic Greek Texts*. Chicago: University Press, 1947.

Liddell, H. G. and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889, 1985 edition.

Recommended:

Conybeare, F. C. and St. George Stock. *Grammar of Septuagint Greek: With Selected Readings from the Septuagint According to the Text of Swete*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1905, 1988 repr. ed.

Moulton, James H. and George Milligan. *Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997 repr. ed.

Smyth, Herbert Weir. *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1920, repr. ed. 1984.

BASIC OUTLINE

- I. Introduction/Prolegomena
 - A. The Petrine Epistles
 - B. Apocalyptic Literature
- II. Translation Analysis
 - A. The Petrine Epistles
 - B. OT – LXX
 - C. OT Apocrypha
- III. Synthesis and Evaluation

METHODOLOGY

The course will pursue its objectives via the following:

1. Assigned readings related to: Prolegomena issues, the Petrine epistles and the nature and characteristics of apocalyptic literature.
2. Class lecture related to the above.
3. Because of the nature of this course as a readings/translations course, most class sessions will be devoted to:
 - a. Student recitation of prepared translations of assigned passages.
 - b. Discussion of lexical, grammatical and syntactical analysis.
4. Final translation exam

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class participation:** Attendance is expected at *all* class sessions. Whenever possible, absences should be announced beforehand to the professor and arrangements made to hand the translation assignments in *on schedule*.
2. **Readings:** All assigned readings (See *Supplemental Readings* – Schedule TBA on the Student Portal)
3. **Translation** (on time) of all assigned passages according to the prescribed format (See handout)
4. **Final translation exam** (*over new material with lexicon only*)

CHAPEL ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at Community Chapel on (date and time TBA) is required. Attendance will be taken. Class members should proceed to the chapel on that day and return to class after chapel is completed.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grade Weights:

Class Participation	10%
Course Readings	5%
Translation Assignments	70%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>
	100%

NOTE: *Except under unusual extenuating circumstances, late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/2 letter grade for every day of lateness.*

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Greek Texts:

Aland, Kurt; Black, Matthew; Martini, Carlo et al. *The Greek New Testament*. 4th ed. United Bible Societies, 1993.

Brenton, Lancelot, C. L. *Septugint Version (with Apocrypha): Greek and English*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1980.

Wikgren, Allen, E. C. Colwell and R. Marcus, *Hellenistic Greek Texts*. Chicago: University Press, 1947.

Grammars and Lexicons:

Blass, F., Debrunner, A. and Funk, R. *A Grammar of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University Press, 1961.

Burton, Ernest DeWitt. *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek*. Chicago: University Press, 1898.

Conybeare, F. C. and St. George Stock. *Grammar of Septuagint Greek: With Selected Readings from the Septuagint According to the Text of Swete*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1905, 1988 repr. ed.

Liddell, H. G. and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889, 1985 edition.

Moule C.F.D. *An Idiom Book of New Testament Greek*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: University Press, 1959.

Moulton, James H. and George Milligan. *Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997 repr. ed.

Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Robertson, A.T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament In the Light of Historical Research*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1934.

Smyth, Herbert Weir. *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1920, 1984 repr. ed.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. Co., 1996.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph.D., June 11, 2009.